Mr. George Delaplaine
News-Post
Frederick, Md. 21701

3/3/88

Dear George,

In your letter of day before yesterday you thank me for what I've submitted- and I think you do not intend your thanks to extend to the five commentaries you refused to publish -but you do not respond to the personal letters I wrote you. You do not have to, of course.

You also say that you appreciate my concern. They in fact are plural, concerns. I think you do not. Otherwise you would not have suppressed the correct information I provided to enable you to be fair in what you provide those who read your papers and have been deceived and misled without being offered what I provided.

In our system Meachum has every right to be an anti-Semite and to bash Israel and you have every right to publish it. When you publish it and suppress what exposes his flagrant error and dishonesties you endorse his writing and views and make them yours, personally, and those of the papers you publish.

The five submissions you suppress really do expose him, meaning what you have published. I can see and in drafting them I did see that you would have problems because I did expose his lack of journalistic integrity and he is on your staff. I was hoping, however, that you would see that I have also given you an opportunity to at least appear to be fair and not an anti-Semite and Israel-hater.

And at no cost because you do pay him and you do not pay me.

If I was not in the past I now want to be clear and unequivocal: you have altered your personal position and that of your papers by suppressing my commentaries that address his preaching of race hatred. You could think and pretend that you were not endorsing what he wrote by publication of it, and that is not the opinion of the many from whom I've heard, when you published what I wrote. But in suppressing what I wrote, his hate propaganda became your and the papers' views.

You have that right but it is not honest and it is not in the tradition of American journalism. It also is very unfair to your readers, on whom you prosper, and it is not fair to the many Jews who have contributed to your success and wealth.

Perhaps above all, it is unfair to and subversive of our system which requires that the people be fairly and honestly informed so that they can express their desires on the basis of dependable information, not propaganda and not the indulgence of personal prejudices and hatreds.

There is also the question of standards, your personal standards and those of the papers you publish. I think that what you suppressed left it without question that this city slicker you adopted and who repaid you by conning you is at best ignorant and careless and that he lies in your papers. In the past he has never once made any effort to rebut anything I wrote and whatever he may have told you, he cannot. I was accurate. And now that you know he cannot rebut what you suppressed, you merely suppressed it.

I was disappointed, of course, to see that you were publishing all this awful stuff so often just untruthful and so obviously intended to incite racial hatred - and so very much of it, out of all proportion at best. I am more disappointed that even given the chance to relieve some of this damage you abandon principle, your own and that of your papers. I did not expect it of you.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg